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November 5, 1921

CONFIDENTIAL - A. C. of S., G-2

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF, M.I.5:

Subject: Supplementary Note by Major Van Natta  
on Civilian Contacts.

National City Bank: The National City Bank has been of much use to me in both Spain and in Cuba. My contacts were through Mr. Cosby in the United States, Mr. Meserve in Paris, and Mr. Voorhees in Spain. All of these gentlemen are exceedingly reserved and give very little. Through them, however, it was possible to form contacts with minor officials in the bank who furnished whatever information was desired. Information was freely given to this bank and help wherever possible. Mr. Voorhees has left Spain and Mr. Chadbourn in Madrid and the head of the Branch in Barcelona are more approachable.

Colonel Grayson M. P. Murphy: Colonel M. P. Murphy is a classmate of mine and as such I approached him for help for the M.A. He was very indefinite and my opinion of him corresponds with that expressed by Major Miles. I do not think he will do anything for us. I think he is still a director, however, in the Guaranty Trust. I had some connection with the Guaranty Trust Company in Paris through Mr. McKnight, who talked freely on his visits to Spain.

✓ Mr. Percy Rockefeller, 26 Broadway: This gentleman helped me very much when I went to Spain and put me in touch with the American International Corporation and Mr. Otto Kahn and some other people. I think Mr. Rockefeller would be a good man to keep in touch with as he could put us in touch with many people if anything came up.

American International Corporation: My contact with this Corporation was through Mr. Rockefeller's introduction and through Mr. Levis, an engineer, who is now in Brazil. Major Case (Major Case is the engineer who made the port improvements at Manila), and Mr. Hutchins in Europe. Mr. Hutchins is no longer with the American International, but is a good man to know. I fully agree with Major Miles' estimate of this company.

U. S. Steel Corporation: Through Mr. Farrell, I was given introduction to the representative of the U. S. Steel Corporation in Spain, and got much information from him.

Singer Sewing Machine Company: Something might be done with this company, but not much as its organization abroad is in the hands of foreigners, generally English or German at the top and in the supreme direction. I knew, but never tried to get anything from Mr. Adcock who was their representative in Spain and now has general charge of Western Europe with headquarters in Paris. Mr. Adcock is English. The present chief in Spain Mr. Taylor was in British Naval Intelligence during the war and is exceedingly friendly and well informed.

Baldwin Locomotive Works: I had contact with this company through Mr. Austin their agent in Spain. If he remains in Spain he is a good man to go to for information along his line. A report on railroads under preparation was to be developed with information which he had and had promised.

-2-

Colonel Walter S. Martin: This gentleman, who is in Havana, arranged my contacts before leaving for Spain, and as Major Miles says, "Is a very valuable man to keep in active touch with in some manner".

✓ Mr. Herbert Parsons, 52 William Street, New York, of Parsons, Closson & McIlvaine: This gentleman was in M.I.D. at the beginning of the war and afterwards he went to France where he served, I believe, with a division. He is a very able man and from his connections in New York can arrange to give much valuable help. My connections before I went to Cuba were arranged through him and were very valuable.

✓ Mr. Herbert C. Lakin, 52 William Street, New York: Mr. Lakin is managing the Cuban Railway, which runs from Santa Clara to Santiago. He has a full knowledge of Cuban politics and affairs. He is a very valuable man to know and was of much use during the war.

✓ Mr. Archer Huntington, 1083 - 5th Avenue, New York: This gentleman is a very rich man who has great interest in Spain and Spanish countries, and is probably the best informed man on this subject in the U. S. He is President of the Hispanic Society and knows nearly everyone worth knowing in Spain. A contact with him is excellent and would produce excellent results in this direction and attaches could be sent to him for a talk and probably letters of introduction before leaving the U. S.

✓ Mr. Joseph Camprubi, 245 Canal Street, New York: This gentleman publishes La Prensa, which I believe is the only daily published in Spanish in the U. S. He also manages the affairs of a Spanish Beneficent Organization in New York. He was educated at Harvard and has excellent connections in Spain. An attache going out sent to this gentleman with letters from some one who has a personal contact with him would probably receive advantage from talking with him and from introductions which he could give him. This gentleman is a Spanish citizen.

I have had contacts with all these gentlemen. I think that they are disposed to aid us in the directions indicated and would give assistance as indicated above. My contact was in the capacity of an attache and, therefore, more personal than that of G-2 in Washington. It is my opinion that the personal element enters very strongly into matters of this nature.